1.	In an electronic messaging system having one or more clients associated with a user having a master status reflected to one or more subscribers, a method for updating the master status of the user, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning a view status to each of the one or more clients;

in response to a status update received from one of the one or more clients, evaluating the status update and each view status; and

updating the master status of the user in accordance with the evaluation of the status update and each view status.

2.	A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of assigning further comprises the steps of:

associating a view identifier with each view status;

receiving a client status update and the view identifier from one of the one or more clients; and

updating the view status associated with the view identifier according to the client status update.

3.	A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of assigning further comprises the steps of:

receiving a client status update from one of the one or more clients; and

updating the view status identified by a view identifier associating the view status with one of the one or more clients in accordance with the client status update.

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4.   A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of evaluating further comprises the step of determining whether the master status should reflect the status update.

5.   A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of updating further comprises the step of reflecting the master status to the one or more subscribers.

6.   A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of updating further comprises changing the master status to the status update.

7.   A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of updating further comprises the step of refraining from changing the master status to the status update.

8.   A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising at least one of the step of changing the master status according to a priority system.

9.   A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the step of changing the master status according to a priority system further comprises the steps of:

changing the master status to offline if the status update is invisible;

refraining from changing the master status if the status update is offline;

refraining from changing the master status if the status update is idle;

changing the master status to offline if the status update is offline and the remaining view statuses are offline; and

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changing the master status to idle if the status update is idle and the remaining view statuses consist of idle and offline.

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10.   In an electronic communication system having a user associated with one or more clients, the user having presence information maintained at a server, a method for updating the presence information of the user reflected to subscribers, the method comprising the steps of:

creating, at the server, a view status for each of the one or more clients, wherein each view status associated with each client is identified by a unique view identifier;

altering the presence information from an evaluation of each view status such that the presence information is representative of a current status of the user, wherein the presence information is maintained in a master view and is reflected to the subscribers;

receiving, at the server, a status update from one of the one or more clients; and

updating the presence information in the master view reflected to the subscribers according to an evaluation of the status update and each view status.

11.   A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the step of creating further comprises the step of receiving a first status change at the server, the first status change being representative of an initial status of one of the one or more clients.

12.   A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the step of altering the presence information further comprises the step of comparing each view status to determine a current status of the user, the current status corresponding to the presence information.

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13.   A method as defined in claim 10, wherein each status update is reflected in an associated client view status, the associated client view status being identified by a view identifier sent with each status update.

14.   A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the step of updating further comprises the step of changing the presence information according to a priority system.

15.   A method as defined in claim 14, wherein the step of changing the presence information according to a priority system further comprises at least one of the steps of:

changing the presence information to offline if the status update is invisible;

refraining from changing the presence information if the status update is offline;

refraining from changing the presence information if the status update is idle;

changing the presence information to offline if the status update is offline and the remaining view statuses are offline;

changing the presence information to idle if the status update is idle and the remaining view statuses consist of idle and offline; and

changing the presence information to match the status update.

16.   A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the step of updating further comprises the step of reflecting the updated presence information in the master view to the subscribers.

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17. A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the step of updating further comprises the step of changing the client view status associated with the status change, such that the client view status accurately reflects the status change.

18. A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 10.

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19.	In an instant messaging group having a user associated with multiple clients, the user having presence information representative of a master status of the user, a method for reflecting the master status to subscribers, the method comprising the steps of:

for each of the multiple clients, creating a client view status at a server when each of the multiple clients sends a first status change to the server;

assigning a view identifier to each client view status when the first status change is received at the server, wherein the view identifier associates each of the multiple clients with a particular client view status;

setting the master status based on an evaluation of each client view status;

for each subsequent status change received from one of the multiple clients, updating the master status in accordance with an evaluation of the subsequent status change and each client view status, wherein the presence information reflected to the subscribers corresponds to the master status.

20.	A method as defined in claim 19, wherein the client view status is representative of a current status of an associated client.

21.	A method as defined in claim 19, wherein the step of setting the master status further comprises the step of reflecting the master status to the subscribers.

22.	A method as defined in claim 19, wherein the step of updating the master status further comprises the step of changing the master status according to a priority system.

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23. A method as defined in claim 22, wherein the step of changing the master status according to a priority system further comprises at least one of the steps of:

changing the master status to offline if the subsequent status update is invisible;

refraining from changing the master status if the status update is offline;

refraining from changing the master status if the subsequent status update is idle;

changing the master status to offline if the subsequent status update is offline and the remaining client view statuses are offline;

changing the master status to idle if the subsequent status update is idle and the remaining client view statuses consist of idle and offline; and

changing the master status to match the subsequent status update.

24. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein the master status reflected to the subscribers is representative of a current status of the user.

25. A method as defined in claim 19, further comprising the step of selecting one of the client view statutes to be represented in the master status.

26. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 19.

27.   A computer program product for implementing in an instant messaging system having a user associated with one or more clients, the user having presence information reflected to subscribers, a method for updating the presence information, the computer program product comprising:

a computer-readable medium carrying executable instructions for performing the method, wherein the method includes the steps for:

creating, at a server, a view status for each of the one or more clients, wherein the view status associated with each client is identified by a unique view identifier;

altering the presence information from an evaluation of each view status such that the presence information is representative of a current status of the user;

receiving, at the server, a status update from one of the one or more clients;

updating the presence information according to the status update; and

reflecting the presence information to the subscribers.

28.   A computer program product as defined in claim 27, wherein the step of updating the presence information further comprises the steps of:

changing the presence information to offline if the status update is invisible;

refraining from changing the presence information if the status update is offline;

refraining from changing the presence information if the status update is idle;

changing the presence information to offline if the status update is offline and the remaining view statuses are offline;

changing the presence information to idle if the status update is idle and the remaining view statuses consist of idle and offline; and

changing the presence information to match the status update.

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